

*The Springs Municipal Advisory Council represents the people of the Springs in Sonoma Valley as the voice of the community to elected representatives. SMAC is committed to engage with all community members in meaningful and inclusive ways to promote the health and wellbeing of the Springs.*

**Springs Municipal Advisory Council  
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting  
September 28, 2021**

**1. Call to Order 6:32**

Roll Call: Vice Chair Willett

Present: Iturri, Lombard, Reyes, Perot, Alcaraz

Absent: Goldman

**Per Agenda: Interpreting available**

In zoom: to listen to the meeting in your preferred language go to the bottom right of your screen and click on the Interpretation logo. Select English or Spanish. You will automatically hear the language selected.

**Chair Iturri announced availability of dual language English/Spanish interpretation.**

**Present: Jordi Vidales Interpreter**

Chair Iturri announced Question & Answer (Q&A) & Chat features will be turned off due to Brown Act regulations. County Counsel was recently consulted re the use of Q&A and Chat features in response to community inquiries. Findings are that it is required to be disabled during the meeting. Clarified that there are multiple opportunities for Public Comment: via email, call in, or attend meeting. Meeting will end if hacked.

**2. Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2021**

Councilmember Willett moved to approve Minutes. Councilmember Perot Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Chair Iturri called for Public Comment limited to 3 minutes**

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

**Public comment during the virtual meeting:**

Members of the public will be recognized at the appropriate time for public comment. Those connected via Zoom must use the Raise Hand tool or dial \*9 if called in. When indicated, members of the public will be allowed to speak, asked to unmute and make their comment. Depending on the number of commenters, the Chair may decide to set a time limit.

**None**

**Public Comment Closed**

**4. Community Event Announcements**

**Amy Pearl**, Susan Gorin has additional Covid testing resources on her page. Free Covid 19 vaccine clinics, check out [socoemergency.org/vaccines](https://socoemergency.org/vaccines); Wednesdays 3:30-6:30pm; Sat Noon-

3pm, at Sonoma Valley Community Health Center, 19270 Sonoma Hwy. Also, Tues 4-7pm at La Luz, 17560 Greger St. Either location walk ins ok, or call 707 939 6071.

**Councilmember Reyes**, announced potluck vaccine clinic at Alta Mira, Tues Oct 5, 4-6pm; also at Glen Ellen Fair, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm.

Presented a commemorative plaque on behalf of Sonoma Valley Community Health Center to Springs MAC in appreciation of support & collaboration during National Health Center Week, at Neighborfest, & vaccine clinic pop ups. Will meet w/ Maite & Ray to present, & send official email to Karina. Will also present gift of See's Candy.

**Chair Iturri** announced Cal Trans Hwy 12 road work happening through October.

## **5. Chair Iturri Update**

Acknowledged all Staff.

Reminder MAC does not have Land Use Authority. Need a representative/liaison for SVCAC who will report back on those items. There is also an open seat for the SVCAC.

Matson Project Manager will be at next meeting for update.

Please include Karina in any communications w/ county update info.

Starting tonight, a new protocol will be implemented in effort to streamline meetings.

Outline: Presentation, Questions by Council, Chair will receive Questions & summarize at end, then Presenter will reply. Same format will apply to Public Comments.

In addition, time limits have been put in place to reduce meeting length. If it goes over, can request more time or reschedule.

Materials being provided to Council as soon as possible to prepare questions in advance.

Presentations being made at meeting & broadcast to provide info to community via multiple channels.

## **6. Annual Report, Chair Iturri**

Need approval of Annual Report to move it forward to Supervisor Gorin & then to BoS. Council has made requested changes. Councilmember Willet made a Motion to Approve Final Report. Councilmember Lombard Seconded. Vote, All in Favor. Passed.

## **7. Proposed Change to MAC Meeting Schedule**

Requests were made to change Springs MAC date due to other conflicting/competing meetings. Suggested change to first Wed., & start at 6pm. October schedule stay the same, skip November meeting. Start new schedule w/ Wednesday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.

**Discussion, clarified it will continue on zoom. Decision: change day, but keep it at 6:30.**

Vote, Councilmember Willet made a Motion, Councilmember Perot Seconded. Vote, All in Favor. Passed.

## **8. County Update: Supervisor Susan Gorin**

- Gave direction to County Staff to bring items forward on development of Cannabis Ordinance, in particular the crafting of EIR re Policy Items. Prepared for a legal challenge, due to concerns about completion of a comprehensive EIR. Decision made to take safe route; hearings reveal people are passionate on both sides of issue. Not so much the dispensary issue or distribution systems; it's where cultivation is happening. People don't

want to be near cultivation zones due to odors, scenic resources/unsightly, security. Looking to define *neighborhood compatibility* for location.

- Noted that the cannabis industry is where young folks want to get on the economic ladder as farmers/cultivators & they can't afford to purchase expensive, large parcels of land; prefer small areas to craft cottage rows, or 10,000 sq. ft. collaboration w/ other small growers. County took a pause on multi-tenant operation, to figure out size of projects – investigate if are they local, or larger projects looking for loopholes; will take long time to get through EIR & analysis. Primary concern - where will water come from? Classification system for groundwater throughout county: Classes 1 and 2 have water available. Classes 3 and 4 sketchy. Need to analyze water availability, specify those areas for cultivation; growers will have to conserve in periods of extreme drought, similar to north county farmers.
- Good news: purchased 120 acre former cannabis cultivation site, annexed into Hood Mountain Regional Park. Was full of cannabis debris; Glass Fire wiped it out. Look for opening; spectacular view from ridge.
- Discussion on Special Event Permitting for bike races, foot races, to make parade permits easier & cheaper; e.g. Glen Ellen, Kenwood. Recognize that large groups of riders/racers on roads are more hazardous. Creating a master calendar to prevent double events on same day.

#### **Chair Iturri called for Commissioners' Questions**

Councilmember Lombard, re bike races & closing roads – how to avoid conflict w/ cars & bikes, improve safety?

Supervisor Gorin, rode in a large group ride, found it unsafe, stopped participating in that ride. Roads closed for short periods but problem is large number of riders. Rare instances where ambulances could not get through in emergency due to so many riders. Very concerned. Mentioned several Rides; the controls vary, road laws mostly observed but unreliable. Community outreach planned; can schedule conversation w/ Permit Sonoma.

#### **Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

**None**

#### **9. Ad hoc Updates (@ 29:50)**

##### **a. Map Your Neighborhood-Dana Bravo**

Outreach opportunities: Councilmember Reyes & Sylvia/Sheriff's Dept. emergency preparedness presentation for Feters Apartments. Will reschedule Celestine Garden Senior section. Goal to find/train block leaders, implement MYN. Participated in Neighborfest, Health Center, Mexican Heritage, Breathe Sonoma.

Projects: mapping; other hoods also organizing on their own; using google maps now including all groups. Got requests to learn how to use fire extinguishers; will get help from Fire Dept. Local incident of small kitchen/house fire, no injury. Fire Dept. fast response. Map Your Neighborhood network responded w/ new skill set.

##### **b. Fire Safe Council – Ray Willett**

Waiting to hear back from Roberta who is retiring, to schedule meeting & finalize a monthly

meeting for Ad Hoc. Between county & local discussions, decided to avoid forming separate non-profit; will be an Association, move forward more quickly. Roberta put in for grants, pending. Before CWPP, other steps. Chair Iturri spoke to group in District 5, an established Fire Safe Council, available to share info. Also met w/ Sonoma Greens re MYN. Councilmember Willet, added Grove St. Fire Safe Council available to meet.

**c. Arts in the Springs, Maite Iturri & Avram Goldman**

Met w/ PRMD. Most of Hwy 12 in Cal Trans purview private property, even if it faces the Hwy. Will meet w/ Art Escape this Thursday re potential, collaborative art projects. Looking at lighting in plaza area.

**d. Community Outreach, Hannah Perot & Jesus Alcaraz**

Posting on Facebook & NextDoor. Contacted someone interested in being on MAC & Fire Safe Council. Jesus creating a flyer to distribute in community w/ QR Code to scan to access MAC website; working on a draft. Also reaching out to community re MAC.

Councilmember Lombard, noted there are small spaces in neighborhoods for potential art work, e.g. communal mailboxes, weathered gray. PGE has control over vaults, but painting would improve the appearance. Possible to extend into neighborhoods?

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment, English & Spanish  
None**

**10. Sonoma County Health Services: Covid**

**English**



Springs MAC  
presentation.0928.pc

**Spanish**



Springs MAC  
presentation 0928 in

**a. Dr. Kismet Baldwin & Dr. Leslie Kimura Trebino**

Responding to questions from last month's meeting

**Power Point Presentation**

Case Trends in County & Testing Updates

**Case rates per 100,000 residents per day.** First big peak since the winter surge; it dropped down in early spring & summer, went back up again with our most recent surge that was most likely related to Delta Variant. Case rates have been coming down, encouraging, as of last night at 10.9 new cases.

**Re overall test positivity,** a peak back with winter surge decrease, most recently peaked again; numbers now coming down, currently 2.5% overall test positivity.

**Re hospitalizations,** most recent surge with numbers trending down but still relatively high at 43 people currently hospitalized.

**There have been 65 deaths related to Covid 19 since July 1.** Cases are still serious & so important to continue to work on our mitigation efforts.

**Re case rate** based on vaccination/unvaccinated status; there's a significant difference between the two; while rates are coming down currently unvaccinated case rates are at 20.8 & fully vaccinated are at 4.4.

**Re key trends by racial and ethnic group** in the past 60 days. Overall numbers broken down by racial ethnic group. But take into account population size; see increased case rates in Pacific Islander. Others shown on chart: Black and African American, American Indian and Alaska natives, Latinex.

**Re case rate trends by city** in the past 60 days, the greatest number of cases are occurring in Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, also in Windsor.

**Relative to the population size & the weekly rate of new cases per hundred thousand population**, is highest in Sebastopol, Cloverdale and Sonoma, & Sonoma Valley.

**Re overall tests per day** in the counties. Peak of testing at the winter surge, but then demand decreased over the spring & summer. But after July 1 demand started increasing again with testing volume going up & then a significant rise in testing volume with a change in our strategy. Testing volume now is reaching the same levels as back in the winter surge, & volume remains high. Current testing volume is at 607.6 tests per hundred thousand residents. Testing is increased for all race ethnicities, all age groups, and geographies of the past month.

**Re new cases by age group** over the past couple of months, a cumulative grouping. Larger case groups are the 20 to 29 year olds and 30 to 35 year olds. Over timeline in two week increments it's skewed more towards August, which is when peak of surge was occurring. Have been tapering off in more recent weeks.

**Re hospitalizations by vaccination status;** unvaccinated persons are hospitalized at much higher rate compared to those who are fully vaccinated.

**Overall, the hospitalization rates** are seven times more frequent and up to 14 times more frequent during the peak of Delta Surge.

**Re vaccine administration throughout the county** over 680,000 doses administered, currently at 84% of the eligible population in our county at least partially vaccinated.

**Re isolation and quarantine guidance**, especially when you take into account vaccination status.

**Isolation**, which is for people who test positive with Covid 19, is still the same for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. If you test positive for Covid 19 you should still isolate. And the isolation released criteria is also the same. You need to be at least 10 days from the start of your symptoms or from your positive test date, if you had no symptoms. Your symptoms need to be improved, they don't have to be completely resolved, but just improved, and then also fever free without the use of any fever, reducing medications for at least 24 hours.

**Quarantine** is when you've had an exposure to someone who tested positive w/ Covid 19. An exposure is where you're within six feet for 15 minutes or more cumulatively over 24 hours.

**This is where the guidance has changed and differs between fully vaccinated individuals and unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals.**

**Fully vaccinated** means that it's been at least two weeks from your final dose of your vaccine and if it's before that time, then you would still fall in the partially vaccinated category.

For fully vaccinated individuals for contacts or close contacts to someone who tested positive it depends on if you have symptoms or not. If you do have symptoms, then you should still quarantine and test right away when your symptoms develop.

If you don't have symptoms, and you're fully vaccinated, then you don't have to quarantine unless you develop symptoms.

So during this period, you would still want to monitor for any symptoms for at least 14 days and test 3-5 days after your exposure to someone who was positive for Covid. Continue to monitor your symptoms for a full 14 days and wear a mask during this time. This is guidance given by both CDC and CDPH.

**For unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals**, you need to quarantine. It's broken down by if you have symptoms or not on when to test. If you have symptoms, then you should test right away. If you don't have symptoms recommend testing on day five or later because, if your test on day five or later is negative, and you remain without symptoms, then you can be released after day 7 from your exposure.

If you don't test at all, and you remain without symptoms, then you can be released after day 10.

**For all these categories, you should still self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.**

**Re modified quarantine**, this is from CDPH that's for schools only, specifically K through 12. Created in an effort to try to keep children in school, as much as possible, but there are specific requirements in order to qualify for this type of modified quarantine.

It has to be a mask on mask exposure, which means that both individuals on the case who tested positive and the contact both were wearing masks during their exposure period. So, if any portion of their exposure in that 15 minutes within six feet was unmasked then they don't qualify for this type of exposure.

Also wouldn't qualify if there is a home exposure, or somewhere outside of school where people would or might be unmasked. So, it's a very specific criterion, but if students do qualify for this type of exposure and they've remained without symptoms, then they're allowed to stay in school and their after school care if that's what they participate in normally.

However, they would not be allowed to participate in any banned extracurricular activities such as sports or choir, etc.

During this modified quarantine period, they must test at least twice, in a 10 day period. If the second test is negative on day five or later, then again they can be released after day seven.

### **Re testing throughout Sonoma County**

Because of the increased demand of testing again around the beginning of the Delta Surge, we transitioned our testing strategy from our small testing team which could only operate a few sites within Santa Rosa city, to partner with other testing groups and companies to expand testing throughout and across the county. Now have four partners that are listed here:

**Curative, Molecular Matrix, LHI, and Fox Home Health.** Now much more widely distributed testing throughout the county.

**Re scheduling a test**, are renovating website to make it more user friendly re how to schedule a test. If you have a medical provider, recommend that you reach out to them first, if not, then go to our testing website, the socoemergency website. Also a couple of different options that are

available to help schedule for a test: calendar option, all the available testing sites listed under the day, map to see what testing sites are available. And if you need further help or you're not able to access the Internet, then you could also call our hotline, both English & Spanish hotlines available, staff are able to help walk you through to get scheduled for a test.

**Re the main two types of tests:**

1. the molecule test or PCR tests
2. the antigen, aka the rapid test

**1. PCR test**, this is the test that's been around long er; it can take anywhere from zero to three days to result. Depends on the lab, the test, and if demand is high. Most of our labs have a turnaround time within 48 hours. This is the PCR test is generally preferred can be used to confirm, as a confirmatory test.

**2. The antigen test** results in an hour or less. Most common one you hear about, about 15 minutes to result. Useful for early diagnosis in symptomatic individuals, because you can test & know right away if they test positive. If they have symptoms you can treat that as a positive case. CDPH has advised & recommended that you can also use it twice or more, in serial screening of asymptomatic people for surveillance. However, the issue with antigen test is that they can have more false negatives, so we recommend if you are symptomatic & test with an antigen test, and that test is negative, it's possible that it's a false negative, so we would recommend in that situation to confirm it with a PCR test to make sure that you know it wasn't a false negative.

**Dr. Kismet Baldwin** commented, yes, the PCR is the preferred test & all of our current, contracted testing sites are performing PCR tests; so all locations mentioned are all PCR tests. However, we just want people to get tested, so if it's more convenient or you can't get to one of the PCR sites & you've got access to an antigen test, please, by all means go ahead and get tested. Then we can kind of figure it out from there. We understand that sometimes there's a little bit of a wait & for whatever reason someone may not be able to get to the PCR tests right away, but please get tested - that's the main goal.

**Leslie Kimura Trebino.** End of presentation. Welcomed questions.

**Chair Iturri called for questions from Council. (1:04:10)**

Councilmember Perot, is it possible for people to get the antigen test at home & have a stockpile, so they can test frequently?

Dr. Kismet Baldwin, yes, they are available at Walgreens & different places although some places have been sold out. Theoretically, you can just go to local chain pharmacy & get a home test. We don't have individual antigen tests for people; the state provides more in bulk where expectation is that we're going to be testing multiple people with that same kit. Don't have that at the Health Department. Recommend using caution a little bit with the whole antigen tests. They're a great idea, however they can be subject to user/operator analysis, so if you get a positive, I would trust it & always follow up with your doctor. If you feel like you might have Covid for another reason, if it's negative that still means to make a call to your primary care provider, if you have one to just double check, or reach out to the health department. We can also interpret that for you as well. So home test is a little operator dependent but they are available.

Chair Iturri inquired if schools or other organizations require one test over the other? Must you have a PCR for return to school, are there things that are required, or is there more flexibility around that?

Dr. Kismet Baldwin, individual schools & school districts are making that determination on their own; we are not in public health. We recommend getting antigen or PCR tests.

**Chair Iturri thanked & acknowledged speakers.**

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

**None**

**Break at 7:40 for five minutes**

**11. Advisory Redistricting Commission (1:08:50)**

**a. Herman G. Hernandez & Ray Willett, Commissioner**

**Hotline 565 2021 [h.hernandez.ms@gmail.com](mailto:h.hernandez.ms@gmail.com)**

**Herman G. Hernandez:** a quick overview of the Redistricting Process, Outreach & Opportunities for Community Engagement in Springs Area.

Redistricting happens every 10 years, tied to the Census Count. Sonoma County must redraw its five county Board of Supervisor District boundaries using new census data.

State law requires that the cities & counties talk to the communities and get the communities engaged in the process, by holding public hearings and outreach.

The most important part of this whole redistricting process is that the Supervisorial Districts have equal or close to equal representation in terms of *people that live in the districts*. This is based on the census count, so we count everyone – documented & undocumented community members. It's an important process because when it's done fairly it follows the ideal of - *one person, one vote* - and it's a reality. It has been over 60 years since the Board of Supervisors has had a Redistricting Commission that is comprised of volunteer community members.

Previously, the Redistricting Commission was made up of the elected Sheriff at the time, the elected District Attorney & the elected person that runs the Voter Registration Office.

So this is the first time in a long time that they've had a group of Commissioners of 19 community members who are soliciting feedback & wanting to engage & be more inside of the communities to really hear from them.

Re opportunities how to engage. They identified seven communities of interest; some geographically and some ethnic: the Coastal community of interest; Black African American community of interest; Latinx Hispanic community of interest; Asian American Pacific islanders; Tribal & Native community members; and LGBTQI community members. Plan to get in front of every community. Done a couple presentations in the Sonoma & Sonoma Valley areas, more to come.

Tonight is a faster delivery of the presentation; usually 30 to 45 minutes, plus Q&A. Invited anyone who is part of a nonprofit organization or community group to request the



presentation.

It's important to get involved because this map that will be chosen by Board of Supervisors will be in place for 10 years, which equals five total election cycles. The Redistricting Commission (RC) was created to help engage our historically disenfranchised/underserved in our Black, Indigenous & people of color communities throughout the county.

**Re the redistricting timeline** for this first phase:

- all Community input & maps are to be submitted by October 15. We have about 17-18 more days to submit input to the Commissioners' inbox.
- October 18 - Commission of nineteen members will be presented with three to five different maps
- they summarize/condense them into two or three maps
- public presentations & Community Hearings
- materials presented to the Board of Supervisors
- Board of Supervisors will have three more Community Hearings
- plan is to have one map adopted on the 14th
- Federal mandate/law that they select a map by December 15

You can be part of the process the whole way through your community feedback by:

- calling into their hotline
- through the redistricting email
- reaching out to your Commissioners that represent the First District
- reaching out to your Supervisor and her team, Supervisor Gorin

Right now is the opportunity to provide input how you want to see the maps developed & address the questions, e.g. what happens if that area is split up? Is that good for the Valley or is that negative for the Valley? This applies to the Sonoma Valley & the Springs' area. It's important that the BoS hear from the people that live in these areas.

**Re the rules:** Federal laws to follow, the main one being *equal population per district*. There also is State Criteria and traditional redistricting principles.

**Noted:** at Tuesday's BoS meetings they're going to have the updated census information finally released by Federal Government. Will hear how that's going to impact the different districts, but these are assumptions. It is estimated that the First District will have about 7,000 less community members than the Fifth District. The Fifth is estimated to be the highest population out of any of those five districts.

One of the most important things is *the deviation in terms of the smallest populated district & the highest populated district - it's 10% - you can't go over that number.*

The sweet spot for the number they are thinking they're going to have to get in each district is about 99,954 people.

The estimated population number for the First District is 96,544 - so there's a chance that they might increase your districts population by 3,000. And that could impact some of your border

areas where your district borders other districts, like the Second Third & Fourth Districts. See map in Power Point.

**Re Upcoming Opportunities** - been doing focus groups since September 20. Goal is to do at least two in each of the areas in communities of interest that the Commissioners have identified. Added Focus Groups for the week of October 11.

Reached out to certain people that lived in the area & asked them to connect us to two or three people that they know might be interested in these Focus Groups. Then did a poll that identified randomly that these two dates & times actually were the best for the entire group of people. Dates and times based on the schedule from their community members in the Valley.

**Also virtual Town Hall series:**

- Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 6pm
- October 6<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 6pm
- October 13<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 6pm

These are opportunities for people from all over the county to participate & get educated about the process. In the past, the county was not as engaged with our community members throughout our area to solicit feedback so that's why we're having many different opportunities. Process was confusing at the beginning; requires more time in doing educational presentations & discussions of these questions & soliciting feedback. One of the ways that we do that is w/ tools that the demographer consultant has provided on the county's website which can help you visualize what districts can become, based on how they currently are formed.

**Other opportunities:**

- Map Drawing Party, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm, social distancing applies, at La Luz, in the Springs area
- Additional info in English/Spanish from Ray and Karina

Encouraged all to help promote some of these opportunities for community. Could set something up week of October 11 because everything needs to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Welcomes more engagements. Contact him. **Hotline 565 2021**

[h.hernandez.ms@gmail.com](mailto:h.hernandez.ms@gmail.com)

**Councilmember Willett** reiterated this is *a map driven process*. Encouraged participation in the Map Drawing Party if interested in hands-on involvement. Get involved w/ community discussions, Virtual Town Hall Series. Input needs to be in map form; NDC will consider all varieties of submissions via email or at sessions. Expressed concern over unpredictability of a bigger Delta surge. Will learn status update at October 5<sup>th</sup> BoS meeting. His data did not match w/ NDC data; was 10,000 less people county-wide. Unclear about accuracy.

**Chair Iturri called for Council Questions**

**Councilmember Alcaraz**, re Census process in Sonoma County; he did not feel the results represented the community. In many districts, especially Latinx, people were afraid to get

counted & that resulted in problems w/ the census because they were left out. Even though the Commissioners are trying to be fair about redistricting, he feels it doesn't correspond. Concerned about the veracity & accuracy of the census.

**Herman G. Hernandez** replied: his main role not focused on the census counts. Hired on September 1<sup>st</sup> for community engagement & feedback on the maps in the districts. Doesn't know how the census count was conducted by the county & would feel uncomfortable answering that question specifically. His focus is on the community engagement of the Communities of Interest that were created by the Commission. But that comment should be considered, especially moving forward. The census count was new to him, & the pandemic created more distance from each other. Did hear these same concerns & conversations during the census outreach, which is why the county was partnering with many Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to identify hard-to-reach communities & leverage the trust that CBOs have with our Latinx, Hispanic & Latino communities.

**Chair Iturri reminded Council she will hear all questions & then summarize.**

**Supervisor Susan Gorin.** Thanked presenters for excellent explanation of Redistricting Commission's work. Appreciates Councilmember Willet & Veronica Vences from La Luz Center for serving on Redistricting Commission.

Agreed w/ Councilmember Alcaraz's comment. Every census has elements of the population uncounted. Commission was hopeful that La Luz Center could go door to door & effectively get people counted, but Covid happened. Everyone was affected & slammed by pandemic. Alcaraz is right, counting not as successful as hoped. Also, the First District potentially lost population due to multiple fires. The census was completed before the Glass Fire, but it was decimated by the Sonoma Complex fires, four years ago. May have lost population & are still rebuilding in a large swath of First district.

Interjected a little political note: the Redistricting process is very important, not just an academic exercise. As a personal example, she was encouraged to run for supervisor because of boundary changes that happened after last census. Clarified this is her last term; she is not running for reelection. That means the boundaries being drafted now will encourage or prevent folks from running for supervisor in 2024 election.

**Councilmember Reyes,** the Portrait of Sonoma 2021 should be coming out. Will that information be released before the submission of the Redistricting? It's very important for people to know how our census tracts look before we make a decision. How do the timelines overlap?

**Councilmember Lombard,** re concern from Councilmember Alcaraz - seems valid that the Latinx population & perhaps other immigrant communities in the Valley were undercounted. How can that be balanced? As mentioned, this is important, not just academic. If we're adding from the Second, Third & Fourth Districts we're more likely to get white people added into our District, which would change the balance of voting & everything.

**Councilmember Willett** re same concern. Commission is looking for Communities of Interest; encouraged all to identify any of them & attend one of these events, e.g. La Luz on Sunday. Talk

to Herman & will figure out a way to draw a map. Our task is to look at the census data.

**Herman G. Hernandez**, outreach has shown difficulty for average community members to draw or submit a map using the county tools. It took him half hour/hour to learn. Tools valuable because they provide the data to be able to add layers, e.g. percentage of rental housing in Sonoma County; percentage of multifamily housing; High School diploma or higher. Much information, highly recommend checking the maps out.

Realize that there are tech challenges due to rural internet divide/gap so County Administrator's Office is partnering with the Commissioners; sending out the *Community of Interests* document that allows you to write out a Public Comment. Can submit it through email to [redistricting\\_2021@sonomacounty.org](mailto:redistricting_2021@sonomacounty.org) or you could call hotline number & leave a voicemail to provide your public input. <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CAO/Policy-Grants-and-Special-Projects/2021-Redistricting/> **Hotline 565 2021 email: [h.hernandez.ms@gmail.com](mailto:h.hernandez.ms@gmail.com)**

County making it easier to provide input based on map research to identify your community - e.g. *this is where I live, this is my community, this is what I would not want to see happen to my community*. That is the kind of excellent feedback they want.

**Go to the last three questions of the Communities of Interest Testimony Document** that define your community, i.e. who I am trying to look out for.

- 1. Has your Community come together to advocate for important services like more translated information or health centers in your neighborhood?
- 2. Have you won victories together or established traditions together?
- 3. What harms have been caused because your voice has been ignored, like poor health caused by pollution or industrial farms? What are the barriers to solving these issues?

There are a series of questions on these documents which are helpful to guide your testimony on your community & how you want to be represented at the county level.

Outreach shows our communities of color are asking - *how can they build a district that allows them to be empowered & elevated?* See that the ethnicity is all white, so how to create districts to elevate the communities of color to have more adequate representation on the Board of Supervisors?

This feedback will help the Commissioners develop the maps that will be presented to the BoS. They will then pick their number one map. You can participate throughout the process by following these important meetings.

**Councilmember Perot**, inquired re list of seven identified Communities of Interest. She has Coastal, Black/African American, Latinx, LGBTQ I, API & Native America. That's six.

**Herman G. Hernandez**, last one is the Springs/Sonoma Valley Community.

Councilmember Perot, so there are two location-based/regional & the rest are identity, ethnicity, sexuality. Herman, correct, they were identified as historically underserved populations in Sonoma County. Councilmember Perot, who determined these Communities of Interest? Herman, the volunteer Advisory Redistricting Commission (ARC) e.g. Councilmember Willett is one of the 19 members of that Commission.

**Chair Iturri** asked for clarification on process since it appears to be a numbers situation. How much influence do these meetings & people's input have? Will Commission say - *here's District One & we need 3,000 more people*. Are you just going to go grab 3,000 more people from another area that may not exactly fit? How much influence will these community gatherings really have over a process that seems to be very quantifiable & numerical in process?

**Councilmember Willett**, the consultant is the National Demographics Corporation (NDC) <https://www.ndcresearch.com>. They will take all of the community input that we're getting & will translate it into a database that will identify these communities. The Districts on the map provide demographics, but need to be balanced ethnically as well as by population. Commission is reaching out to more ethnically diverse areas for input. The NDC will use all of that data & provide three to five maps to look at on the 18<sup>th</sup>, along with the new census data.

There will be three sessions: the 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Then it goes on to the BoS who will have the opportunity to review data balance with NDC. There are continuing opportunities for public input. The best way is to get it into NDC database, so when they're preparing these maps w/ hypothetical scenarios for us, they will have those communities of interest in their system. There's a lot of database so we have to trust they're using best practices in their process.

**Herman G. Hernandez** acknowledged Chair Iturri's comment re numbers. He emphasized what's important in this whole process is getting the input of our historically disenfranchised communities into the process now i.e. *Phase One*. Because when *Phase Two* begins i.e. when the ARC reviews the THREE to FIVE maps - if communities of interest don't find out about the process until Phase Two it will be harder to influence the maps. Then when it gets to *Phase Three, which is the BoS*, i.e. only TWO to THREE maps. Right now the Commissioner meetings have up to FIVE drafted maps based on all the community input.

Mentioned FYI that all the Districts are in significant discussions. E.g. should the Coastal District be divided, w/ arguments for & against; discussion about dividing Roseland; discussion about adding Coffee Park to Supervisor Chris Coursey's District; discussion about adding Oakmont to Chris Coursey's District & making the First District go all the way down further into the Second District.

So the process is population driven.

And it is important to note that the current map before the Board of Supervisors could be kept as-is because it's not over that 10% deviation.

So the input is very important for this Phase, to confirm that these communities of interest have been included in the process.

Councilmember Lombard, one community that does not seem to be represented for this is seniors. The conditions around senior housing are abysmal here. If you qualify, you can die waiting for housing. It's a seven to ten year, used to be five year, wait to get on a housing list. That's just impossible. The services for seniors in the area aren't great, and there are many seniors. Recent article reported Sonoma Valley area having about 60% seniors. There is a

particular designation word, which is not being considered.

### **Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

**Amy Pearl**, appreciates that Hannah is taking notes to post on Facebook & social media. Slides were great w/ information about meetings & Redistricting website. Doesn't see anything on social media about these focus groups, town halls or the map drawing part.

Re redistricting - there's no perfect map for every community of interest in every concern.

What you want to try to do is not be exclusionary. Sonoma County has some pockets of Latino communities & there are various places that you can try to pack to get better representation for that community. Doesn't know if that's true for example, for the black community. Seems like it's pretty dispersed & there's not necessarily any centralized area or kind of coalescing area that would have more representation. Is that true & how do you deal with that?

**Herman G. Hernandez**, you cannot do racial gerrymandering. But there's kind of a gray area where they ask questions like - what kind of characteristics do you share; what language do you share; what culture or what community traditions do you share in your neighborhoods.

Mentioned that in another focus group they asked - what about South Park, in southern Santa Rosa by the fairgrounds. How about adding that area into the Roseland District & creating a district because there's a larger African American/Black community in South Park. Or Chris Coursey taking on more of Roseland, for a more diverse district. Then you have the possibility of electing a person of color in that district. But the confusing part is how to divide the districts up without actually breaking the racial gerrymandering federal law. And those are things that Commission will have to figure out.

### **Public Comment closed**

#### **Chair Iturri called for Council questions.**

**Chair Iturri** inquired - although we are decreasing population in some areas, was part of the process a consideration to increase the number of supervisors and the number of possible representatives within Sonoma County?

**Councilmember Willett**, in order to reply to that question it would have been helpful to get a context lesson, i.e. here's the Constitution of the United States, the California Constitution. Need to clarify what the guiding principles are. Article 25 says it establishes counties & there are two types of counties - Charter Counties & Normal Counties. Sonoma is a Normal County - we get five supervisors & they must live inside their district. If you want anything else you need to go to a Charter County. Would be valuable to have that discussion in the future - what would happen if we had five districts AND an Ad Hoc or two Ad Hocs? Would you then be able to have better representation of populations that are underserved? Not allowed to gerrymander & everybody's spread out. If you're a population with only 30%-40% & you're spread out over the whole county the only way to get representation would be an Ad Hoc position which would then be vulnerable to money influence. So there are upsides and downsides. But that discussion wasn't part of our process.

**Councilmember Perot**, noted she can't copy & paste out of the Chat, can Herman help so she can better access & share information.

**Herman G. Hernandez**, yes, will email Karina information & she can forward to MAC. The reason this is not on the county's website is due to more targeted grassroots engagement. Spoke to County Administrator's Office today; will be uploading the Town Hall Series, Community Map Drawing Parties to the public. The Focus Groups are still going to be more targeted. Already have five people signed up for each Springs/Sonoma Valley Focus Group.

## 12. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

**Chair Iturri**: Current list: Permit Sonoma; CDC alternatives; Homeless Action; City of Sonoma Parks & Rec Task Force; Cal Trans; pedestrian & bike infrastructure; TPW Adopt a Road; PGE tree removal; Regional Parks; General Service; Springs Parking Control; Civil Education & What is a MAC; Springs Specific Plan; EDB; Sonoma Fire; City manager; Permit Sonoma w/ SDC Specific Plan; Mattson's Project Manager

**October**: scheduled Permit Sonoma, SDC Specific Plan, Mattson update, can add one more.

**Councilmember Reyes**, add Portrait of Sonoma, due in December, & no November MAC meeting. Oscar Chavez to present. Will be Focus Groups, meetings.

**Councilmember Lombard**, Springs Specific Plan-no release yet/not ready. Interested in Parks Task Force presentation.

**Chair Iturri** will share full list for review. Pedestrian Bike Infrastructure, & Homeless Action also important items of interest.

October meeting per current schedule, no meeting in November, returning December w/ new schedule on first Wednesday.

## 13. Adjournment 8:37

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Springs Municipal Advisory Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A1, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.*

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Note: Consideration of items will proceed as follows:

1. Presentation by proponent
  2. Questions by Commissioners
  3. Questions and comments from the public
  4. Response by proponent, if required
  5. Comments by Commissioners
  6. Resolution, if indicated
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Web Links: County of Sonoma: [www.sonoma-county.org](http://www.sonoma-county.org) select Boards and Commissions

Additional links:

<https://www.facebook.com/susangorin1st>

[Springs MAC Facebook page](#)

[2021 meeting dates](#)

[Springs MAC county page](#)

Contact: Karina Garcia, Field Representative to Supervisor Susan Gorin –

[Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org)

**Springs MAC you tube video for September 28, 2021**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6sSwyufHjU&t=8s>